STORM TROOPERS IN W. GERMAN CABINET

Adenauer Promotes SS Men and Jew-Baiters. Full Details, Page 4 ☛

DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT

VOL. II NO. 22 | OCTOBER 30th 1953 | Price: 15 Pf., 5 c., 3 d

E. GERMAN PRICES SLASHED

Cheaper Meat, Margarine, Clothing, Beer & Cigarettes

Big price cuts for food, clothing and other articles went into effect throughout East Germany on October 26th. The cuts ranged from an average of 10 % in the case of both fresh and canned meat, through 20 % cuts in clothing prices, up to the halving of the prices of matches.

Not only essentials were included amongst the 12,000 different categories of goods the price of which was reduced: cigarettes and beer too became cheaper.

The new price reductions, together with the big tax cuts reported on page 3, will mean that in the coming year each man, women and child in the German Democratic Republic will have an average increase of purchasing power of 195 marks — enough to buy a suit of clothes and a radio set, or over 400 glasses of beer.

Here are some details of the big price cuts:

All off-the-ration meat and meat products were reduced by an average of 10%. The price of meat on-the-ration, which has remained unaltered at roughly pre-war levels, was unchanged.

Various grades of canned fish, in oil and tomato, were reduced about 25%.

Milk and milk powder were cut in price by one fifth.

All off-the-ration fats, with the exception of butter, were reduced between 15% and 30 %.

Cigarettes were sharply cut: the price of a package of 20 of the most popular brands was reduced from 2 marks to 1.60 marks, and in the case of one brand to 1.20 marks. Pipe tobacco and cigars were reduced an average of one fifth.

The price of a glass of beer was slashed from 54 pfennigs to 45 pfennigs, and matches were cut from 20 pfennigs a box to 10 pfennigs.

Most textiles, including bed-linen, underclothing, dresses and suits were reduced about one fifth in price.

(cont. on page 2)

GOING UP!

By The Editor

On this page, and elsewhere in this issue, we report on the big cuts in prices and taxation in the German Democratic Republic.

These reductions, which mean that everyone in East Germany will have a higher standard of living in the coming year, are the result of the careful planning of the Government, and the hard work of the men and women in the factories and on the fields.

In East Germany, most of the factories belong to the people who work in them, and the fields belong to the farmers who till them. The workers and the farmers are working hard to improve their standard of living, and in the past few days they have seen the results in the most concrete form.

Their standard of living is going up, steadily and surely.

In West Germany, other things are going up. The prices of food and clothing in the shops creep steadily upwards on the one hand: and on the other the profits of the great industrial undertakings, still owned by the same people who helped Hitler to power, are skyrocketing.

The shares of the West German Kloeckner Steel Trust sold for 198 marks on July 24th this year. On October 26th they had soared to 299 marks, showing the immense profits which West German capitalists expect as the result of the formation of a new Wehrmacht.

Which development contributes most to peace and a better future?

(cont. from p. 1)

E. GERMAN PRICES SLASHED

Bicycles, radio sets, cameras, watches and clocks, electric light bulbs and musical instruments were all cut in price by between 10% and 25%. In the cases of a few grades the prices were halved.

Children's shoes were cut in price by about one third, and fine grade "Monofil" stockings, similar to nylon were reduced by an average of 15%.

* * *

Between October 1951 and September 1953, prices in Britain increased by the following sums:

Bacon . . . . 10¾ d. per lb.
Butter . . . . 10 d. per lb.
Cheese . . . . 1/— per lb.
Margarine . . . . 4 d. per lb.
Canned corned beef 1/8 d. per lb.

* * *

Footnote: the "Times", London, on October 26th, printed this headline:

E. GERMAN PRICE REDUCTIONS DOUBTFUL BENEFIT TO WORKERS

New Bishop in Saxony

The new Evangelical Bishop of Saxony, East Germany, was ceremoniously installed on October 21st in Meissen Cathedral.

Bishop Gotifried Nott, the new bishop, was installed in the presence of leading representatives of the Evangelical Church in both East and West Germany. The Government of the German Democratic Republic was represented at the ceremony by Friedrich Burmeister, Minister of Posts.

Fanfares were blown from the towers of all the churches in the ancient town of Meissen to mark the ceremony.

MORE STUDENTS IN E. GERMANY

Twice as Many as in West

The number of university students in the German Democratic Republic has reached a new high this year, and the proportion of young people studying is nearly twice as high as in West Germany.

Statistics released at the beginning of the new university year showed that for every 1000 inhabitants of East Germany, 4.1 are studying at universities or technical institutes of university standard. In West Germany only 2.3 persons per thousand have this chance.

The figures show that 64,000 young men and women now study at the universities and technical institutes in East Germany, and 10,000 more are doing spare-time study of university standard at home.

Amongst the 19,000 new students who went to university this October just over one half are the sons and daughters of peasants and workers; in West Germany only 3% of the students come from these sections of the population.

6,900 other young men and women who have been working up to now in factories and on the land began their study at Workers' and Peasants' Faculties, special institutes attached to the universities where young people who left school at 14 can complete their education up to university standard before going on to the university proper.

The proportion of women amongst the students is steadily on the increase, and nearly 35% of all new students are women. In certain faculties, such as medicine, history, languages and educational studies more than 50% of all students are women, but in technical branches the proportion is much lower. Efforts are now being made to increase the proportion of women studying technical subjects.

Despite the great increase in the capacity of the universities in East Germany, numbers of talented young people had to be turned away this year through lack of facilities. In the coming months the network, particularly of technical institutes, will be further extended, and at the beginning of 1954 technical institutes for building, heavy engineering, and for textile and paper technology will be opened in various parts of the Republic.

New technical institutes which opened for the first time in September this year included special academies for finance, agronomy, electro-technology and zoology. The architectural academy in Weimar was greatly expanded by the establishment of separate faculties for building materials and building engineering.

East German Books On Show in London

Books from the German Democratic Republic will go on show in London during November at a special exhibition in Collet's Book Gallery, 45 Museum Street, opposite the British Museum.

The exhibition, which will be open daily from 11 a. m. to 6.30 p. m. (2—5 p. m. on Sundays) from November 2nd to November 28th, will give English readers of GERMAN REPORT a chance to see the very varied production of the publishing firms of the German Democratic Republic.

The exhibition will show not only the classics and modern writers, which are put out in huge editions, but also school and university textbooks of all types. This has been a particularly important part of the publishing work in democratic Germany, since all the old school textbooks, filled as they were with nazi propaganda and racialist ideas, have had to be discarded.

Scientists will be particularly interested in the many translations into German of Soviet scientific works, most of which are not available in English translation.

"TREASONABLE" FAIRY TALES

A few days ago, West German detectives carried out a search in the house of a progressive woman in the little village of Blexen, near Wesermarsch in the British Zone.

They seized the programme of a cultural performance given by the German-Soviet Friendship Society, three copies of the children's book "Fairy Tales of the Peoples of the Soviet Union", and the Soviet adventure story "Fire in the Polar Night".

Despite her protest the books were confiscated, and two days later she received an official notice from the county police at Wesermarsch stating:

"Subject: Confiscation of writings hostile to the state.

"The confiscation of the writings seized on the instructions of the Oldenburg State Attorney is hereby ordered in accordance with para 3 of the Federal Ordinance on Defence against Attacks on Democratic Basic Rights, dated June 6th 1951.

"The writings confiscated contain appeals to resist the laws of the Federal Republic, and attacks on democratic order. The writings are therefore prohibited under para 2., and confiscated under para 3 of the Ordinance quoted."

Paulus Back

Former Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus, who commanded the nazi troops at Stalingrad, and was captured by Soviet troops on January 31st 1943, has returned to Germany. He will live in the German Democratic Republic, it was officially announced.

In August 1944 Paulus joined the "League of German Officers," an association of German officers in Soviet P. O. W. camps which called for the overthrow of Hitler and the ending of the war.

After the war, rumours were launched in the western press about an alleged "Paulus Army" said to composed of German P. O. W. s, which was stated to be threatening the west. These reports, which were devoid of all foundation, were the starting point in the campaign for the re-formation in West Germany of the Wehrmacht.

TAXES CUT IN E. GERMANY

Big Savings For Workers

Sweeping tax reductions, which more than halve taxes on low incomes, come into force in the German Democratic Republic on November 1st.

The tax cuts, decided upon by the East German Government on October 15th, will mean a yearly saving of 450 million marks to workers and office employees.

The lowest wage categories are now completely excluded from payment of "pay-as-you-earn" income tax, and for many tax payers the new regulations mean that taxes are halved.

A married worker with one child, earning 380 marks monthly, used to pay 33 marks tax. Under the new regulation his tax has been reduced to 15 marks, which means he has a saving of 18 marks monthly. The saving is proportionately more for all workers with lower incomes.

The new regulation means that income tax on workers' earnings is now between 10% and 20% lower than in West Germany. In addition, all danger money and special pay for very dirty work is tax-free in East Germany, but taxed in the West.

The nex tax regulation also extended considerable tax treductions to doctors. In some categories the income tax to be paid in future by doctors will be less than half what they previously had to pay.

Geneva Figures Show E. German Development

Industrial production in East Germany, after a slower start, is now rising at a far higher rate than West German production, according to statistics just published by the "Economic Bulletin for Europe," issued in Geneva by the Economic Commission for Europe (Figures from Keesing's Contemporary Archives, page 13171).

Here are the figures:

	1948	1951	1952
East Germany	100	184	214
West Germany	100	216	231

Here for comparison are the figures for Britian, from the same report:

United Kingdom	100	120	116

GANGSTERS SLAY PEOPLE'S POLICE

An armed gang, sent into the German Democratic Republic charged with large scale sabotage operations, murdered four members of the People's Police on October 10th and subsequent days, it was announced in Berlin. Two of the gang members were arrested in the vicinity of Cottbus, about 80 miles south east of Berlin.

The murdered People's Policemen were:

Heinrich Grummini, veteran anti-fascist worker, who was sacked from his place of work in 1933 when Hitler came to power. He was one of the men who helped to build up the People's Police as the first democratic and anti-militarist police force in Germany.

Martin Lehmann, carpenter and father of six children. Lehmann, an active trade unionist before Hitler came to power, was conscripted into the Wehrmacht, became a prisoner of war in the Soviet Union, and was active there in the anti-fascist committee. As carpenter and activist he worked on the rebuilding of Stalingrad. He joined the People's Police immediately upon his return to Germany.

Heinz Sunkel, 23-year-old son of an agricultural worker, who joined the People's Police two years ago after working for a time as a building worker.

Herbert Hoffmann, tool-maker, who joined the People's Police in 1947 as the result of an appeal made by the Socialist Unity Party for the best workers to strengthen the ranks of the police.

West German Police Arrest Veteran Anti-Fascist

West German police arrested Fritz Rische, one of the leaders of the Communist Party in West Germany, on October 15th, and held him on charges of "treason".

Fritz Rische, who is a member of the Secretariat of the Central Board of the Communist Party, was one of the Communist deputies in the previous West German parliament. During the nazi regime he was repeatedly arrested and served a long term of imprisonment for alleged "treason".

The treason now alleged against Rische is that in the course of a public meeting held in Gelsenkirchen, British Zone, on January 28th this year, he spoke on the "Programme for the National Reunification of Germany" issued by the West German Communist Party. Main points of this programme are the demands for the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany, the holding of all-German elections, and the withdrawal of all occupation troops.

FILM POISON

On October 2nd, GERMAN REPORT warned readers against two "documentary" films turned out in West Berlin by nazi producer Johannes Haeussler. The two films, blatant propaganda for nazism and German militarism, are called "That Was Our Rommel" and "Berlin, Gate to Freedom."

We now learn that a Danish film distributor, Mr. Preben Philipsen, is making arrangements to give these propaganda films world-wide distribution through the companies "Constantin-Filmverleih GmbH." of Frankfurt, West Germany and "A/S Constantin Films" of Copenhagen, both of which he owns, and through "London & Overseas Film Services Ltd." of which he is part owner.

X-RAYING THE NEW WEST GERMAN CABINET

Nazi Storm Trooper Schroeder — Minister of Justice

The new West German Minister of the Interior, 43-year-old Gerhard Schroeder, is a former member of the SA, Hitler's infamous storm troops.

During the nazi period he was one of the legal advisers of Hjalmar Schacht, Hitler's "financial genius", and today he is member of the board of directors of the Hagen-Haspe Foundry, and legal adviser of the "North West German Foundry and Mining Federation", owned by the Kloeckner Trust, one of West Germany's greatest heavy industrial undertakings.

From 1933 to 1936 Schroeder was member of the Legal Faculty at Berlin University, and an active member of the nazi group at the university. His nazi philosophy was clearly shown in an article he wrote during this period in which he declared:

"The struggle for the renewal of our science is aimed at the creation of a science rooted in the folk-political soil of our race, a science which creates its own values and measures from our national socialist philosophy. The German philosophy is founded on blood, soil, struggle and need."

("Frankfurter Zeitung", July 14th 1937)

Chancellor Adenauer — Mussolini's Friend

The 77-year old West German Chancellor has been a representative of the heavy industrialists of the Rhineland ever since he became Lord Mayor of the city of Cologne in 1917, during the First World War.

During the Weimar Republic he steadily climbed the ladder in public life, finally becoming chairman of the Prussian Council of State.

This position enabled him to push through a revision in the import taxes for artificial silk, for which he received a bribe in the form of shares worth one million marks — then about 200,000 dollars, from the German Artificial Silk Trust.

In 1929 he sent a telegram to Mussolini stating:

"Your name will be entered in the book of history in golden letters."

During the nazi regime Adenauer, who had made the mistake of backing other candidates for the dictatorship, was retired from his position as Lord Mayor of Cologne, but continued to receive full pension for the whole period. A semi-official biographical note in the "Neue Zeitung", the American newspaper in West Germany, published on September 16th 1949, described Adenauer's life during the nazi period in these words:

"He did not worry. He pottered about in his garden, and tended his roses."

Immediately after the end of the war, the British Military Authorities appointed Adenauer as Mayor of Cologne, but sacked him after a few weeks because of incompetence.

Immediately after his re-election on September 6th this year, Adenauer declared:

"Our aim is to liberate our brothers and sisters in the eastern territories. We should stop talking about the reunification of Germany, and call it liberation instead."

Theodor Oberlaender, Minister for Expellees

Herr Oberlaender is an expert on East European economic problems, having worked during the nazi period as head of the "East European Economic Institute" in Koenigsberg, East Prussia. He joined the nazi party in 1933, and rose to the rank of major in Hitler's storm troops. In this capacity he was attached to the nazi Gauleiter of the Province of East Prussia.

Hans Seebohm, Minister of Transport

Herr Seebohm was formerly a director of the Hohenlohe Coal Mines in Silesia, which are now owned by the Polish people. He is a particularly noisy supporter of all schemes for "liberating" eastern Europe, and also for "re-integrating the traditional provinces of Alsace and Lorraine (France, ed.) in the Reich".

"The greatest danger facing West Germany is the penetration of the democratic parties by sinister Marxists" he stated in a speech on July 4th 1953.

Herr Seebohm is the Chairman of the Federation of Lower Saxony Foundry Owners, and member of the board of directors of the Industrie-kredit Bank in Dusseldorf. He also has large interests in the oil industry.

Robert Tillmanns, Minister without Portfolio

During the nazi period Robert Tillmanns was private secretary to Friedrich Flick, German arms magnate who was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment by a U. S. court at Nuremberg on December 22nd 1947 on war crimes charges, including the plundering and looting of countries occupied by the nazis.

Tillmanns is a member of the West German "Investigating Commission" established to decide what to do with East Germany, and in particular with the factories there now owned by the workers, after the proposed "liberation" by West German armies.

Heinrich Hellwege, Minister for Bundesrat Affairs

Herr Hellwege, 45-year-old chairman of the extreme right-wing German Party, has the rather nebulous cabinet position of liaison officer with the Bundesrat, the upper house of the West German Parliament.

He is a keen supporter of the Buchmanite "Moral Rearmament" Movement, recently condemned as anti-labour by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, to which the American A. F. L. and the British T. U. C. are affiliated.

On January 18th 1953 Hellwege announced in a speech in Hamburg: "The Communists, the Social Democrats and the trade unions must be smashed".

Franz Bluecher, Vice Chancellor and Minister for Economic Cooperation

Franz Bluecher is a banker, who at an election meeting in August 1953 described himself in these words:

"I represent economic and financial policy in the interests of German heavy industry".

In 1938, in the middle of the nazi period, Bluecher became the director of a bank in Essen, belonging to war criminal Friedrich Flick, later sentenced to 7 years imprisonment by an American Military Court.

He is chairman of the Free Democratic Party, which numbers amongst its leading members Werner Best, nazi governor of Denmark during the war, who was sentenced to death by Copenhagen City Court on September 20th 1948 for murder and complicity in the deportation of the Danish Jews. Werner Best was later reprieved and released.

Anton Storch, Minister of Labour

Minister of Labour Anton Storch stated in a speech in 1952:

"If people complain that I spread fascist ideas, I do not regard this as in any way an insult. When I hear the sounds of martial music, then my heart beats higher."

SS Major Waldemar Kraft — Minister Without Portfolio

Waldemar Kraft, who is Chairman of the BHE (Federation of Homeless and Those who have Lost Their Rights — generally known as the Refugee Party) is the most openly fascist of the new ministers.

He was born in 1898 in Bustrow near Poznan, which was then part of imperial German, but which has formed part of Poland since 1918. He served as a major in the First World War, and then fought with the fascist "Frei Korps" in Upper Silesia in 1919—20.

As leader of the extreme German nationalistic organisation of "Germanic Peasants in Poland", Kraft played an important part in undermining the Polish state and preparing the way for the nazi invasion in 1939.

During the war, Kraft, who held the rank of Hauptsturmfuehrer (Major) in the SS, was guilty of numerous war crimes in occupied Poland.

From 1945 to 1947 Kraft was held in an internment camp by the British authorities in Germany as a dangerous nazi.

"As an expert on eastern Europe and the peoples of eastern Europe, I shall be able to help the cabinet with my advice on these problems" Herr Kraft stated on October 24th this year, in an interview quoted by the West German Press Agency.

'Aryanisation' Expert Preusker — Housing Minister

The official biography of the new Housing Minister, issued by the West German Government Press Department stated:

"Viktor Emmanuel Preusker is a banking expert who studied political science at Berlin University. From 1932 to 1940 he worked in the Berlin office of the Dresdner Bank."

The official biography forgets to mention that Preusker was an SS man and was one of the bank's experts in "Aryanising" Jewish property.

Here are some of the missing details:

In 1933, the young student Preusker joined Hitler's notorious SS, and at the same time obtained a post in the Dresdener Bank, one of the great banking firms which backed Hitler. He concentrated upon the study of "racial" questions, and within a very short period received the official post of SS Instructor in Racial Questions.

In 1938, Preusker, who had received rapid promotion in the bank, was sent to Vienna in the wake of the invading nazi army, in order to help in the task of stealing as much Jewish property as possible.

He spent seven months on this task in Vienna, and was then called back to Berlin, where his special knowledge was needed for the task of seizing as much as possible of the Jewish property there, following the pogroms of November 1938.

At the beginning of 1939, he was named head of the German Business Division of the Dresdener Bank, and was simultaneously given a very large monetary bonus and a special certificate of thanks for his work in "freeing the German Economy from the Jewish yoke".

Preusker is a member of the Free Democratic Party. He is a director of the export bank Hardy & Co, Frankfurt/Main.

From "Krokodil", Moscow

...SOME MORE OF ADENAUER'S AIDES

Fritz Schaeffer, Minister of Finance

Writing in the "Regensburger Anzeiger" on May 4th 1933, a few months after Hitler came to power, Schaeffer stated:

"Adolf Hitler is the renovator of the Reich. We must awaken all forces and put them to work so that the Chancellor can accomplish his enormous tasks."

In May 1945 the American Military Government appointed Schaeffer as Premier of Bavaria, but he acted in such a pro-nazi manner at that date that in September he was removed from his post. An official U. S. Report on Schaeffer, drawn up at that time, stated:

"Repeated investigations made by the proper authorities of Military Government have shown that Schaeffer must be regarded as a nazi sympathiser and nazi collaborator. In his political career he was always a representative of the ultra-nationalist and militarist philosophy which culminated in the nazi regime and the war. Fritz Schaeffer is therefore not fitted to hold a position of importance or influence."

Hans Globke, State Secretary to Chancellor Adenauer

"The National Socialist leadership of the state has the indestructible conviction that it is acting in accordance with the will of the Almighty when it expresses the eternal law of life in the state order of the Third Reich."

This is one sentence from the book "Commentary to German Racialist Legislation" issued 1935 by the publishing house of Beck in Munich.

Author of the book was Dr. Hans Globke, then head of the Department for Racial Questions in the nazi Ministry of the Interior. The book explained in detail the significance of the Nuremberg Laws, Hitler's anti-Semitic laws which reduced all Jews to the status of third class citizens and led within a few years to the mass murder of over 6 million Jews in Europe.

FOUGHT HITLER — DENIED A PASSPORT

The West German authorities regard people who fought Hitler as a "menace to the internal and external security of the German Federal Republic" and withdraw their passports. This is shown by the letter which we reproduce below:

City of Duesseldorf —
City Director
Dr. Marcel W. Frenkel
16 Beethovenstrasse
Duesseldorf.

Subject: Withdrawal of your passport

On July 29th 1953 you were issued by the city authorities with passport No. 324491/15532/52 valid until July 28th 1954. This passport is herewith withdrawn in conformity with §§ 7 section 1a of the Passport Law of March 4th 1952 ...

It has been ascertained that you are the leader of the "Working Group of Democratic Lawyers", Chairman of the Central Board of the West German V.V.N. (Association of Nazi Persecutees) ... member of the "Central Board for the Protection of Democratic Rights" and member of the "Committee to Save the Rosenbergs". In addition ... you took the chair at a Congress of Resistance Fighters organised by the V.V.N. in Gelsenkirchen on April 14th and 15th 1951 ... you signed an appeal for an "International Week of Struggle against War and Fascism, and for National Independence" in September 1952 ...

These facts make it probable to assume that you, as holder of this passport, endanger the internal or external security of the German Federal Republic, or of a German province ...

I insist that you hand your passport over to the bearer of this letter.
(signed) Menken, Deputy Mayor.

Shop Stewards Protest Remilitaristion: Removed

Three shop stewards in Bremen, West Germany, who protested against a militarist rally in Giessen have been removed from their posts on the works' council of the AG Weserwerft, a big shipbuilding firm.

On October 21st the Bremen Labour Court decided that the firm had been justified in removing the trade union representatives from the council, since they had taken part in "political activities" banned under the West German Labour Law passed in 1952.

The three shop stewards, Hermann Prueser, Willi Lahrs and Robert Wilczak, had signed a telegram on July 12th this year protesting against the holding of the rally of the militaristic and pro-fascist "Stahlheim" in Giessen.

A photo of war criminal Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, protected by Hitler-style storm troopers, addressing this rally, was printed in GERMAN REPORT dated August 7th.

"SS is model for European Army"

Hitler's Waffen SS was a pattern for the European Defence Community, SS General Felix Steiner told a meeting of former members of the murder organisation in Bamberg, American Zone, on October 11th.

"Former members of the SS must not only receive equal rights in the new German Army; they must play a leading role" General Steiner stated, amidst stormy applause.

Old soldiers in West Germany must meet regularly in order to "prepare for a new period of front-line comradeship" nazi General Hauser told 500 ex-soldiers at a rally in Ansbach, American Zone.

Democratic GERMAN REPORT

Subscriptions rates: 4 marks, 8/- sterling, $ 1.25 per annum or pro rata, postage paid.

Subscriptions may be paid at the following addresses:

Democratic Germany: At all post offices.

Britain: Collet's Subscription Dept, 40 Great Russell St., London W. C. 1

All other communications should be addressed to:

**Democratic German Report,
Friedrichstrasse 167 III,
Berlin W 8,
Germany.**

BRIGHTENING UP BERLIN

By Frederick Ford

The city authorities and political parties in the Democratic Sector of Berlin have launched a large scale campaign to brighten up the city, and to make it into a worthy capital for the whole of Germany.

The new programme, which ranges from big-scale town-planning schemes down to the provision of more hot-sausage stalls on the streets, was launched on the initiative of the Berlin Committee of the Socialist Unity Party, as part of the new course being pursued by the Government.

A manifesto, published by the Berlin Committee, pointed out that the great work of rebuilding already done since the war had provided the necessities of life for everyone, but that that was not enough.

"It is no longer enough just to have a roof over our heads" the manifesto stated. "What we want now are fine, sunny houses".

"We all have enough to eat today, but that is not sufficient. We want a really rich variety of good and tasty foodstuffs.

"To have clean clothes to put on is not sufficient. We want clothes of a really good quality and materials with attractive patterns. After our work we want to have music, and a nice place to dance in."

Specific proposals made in the manifesto included the following:

Berlin should be made into the fashion centre of Germany, with fashionable shops offering smart dresses and shoes of the best quality.

Apartment building activity in the Stalin Allee area should be speeded up, and preparations should be made for extending the great rebuilding programme to Lenin Allee, a parallel traffic artery.

A drive should be made to remove the last rubble from the Berlin ruins, and house-owners, both communal and private, should be encouraged to renovate the often dilapidated house-fronts.

The municipal transport system should be overhauled, omnibuses and subway trains renovated, and facilities for transport in the rush-hours improved.

The state trading organisation and cooperative stores should open more specialised shops concentrating on cooked and processed foods, ready for use by people who are out at work all day. Arrangements must be made for house-to-house deliveries of milk and fresh rolls, which stopped during the war and have never been resumed.

More stalls selling hot sausage, fried fish and potato pancakes will be opened. The present network of restaurants, cafes, dance halls and ice-cream parlours will be greatly extended.

Garbage removal and street cleaning will be improved; bomb sites and other unbuilt areas will be converted into parks and gardens, with plenty of sand-pits and paddling-pools for children.

Cinemas will be renovated, satirical cabarets and variety shows will be encouraged, and theatre and film festivals will be arranged.

The present sport facilities will be further extended, with ice-skating rinks in all districts, and toboggan slides and ski runs wherever possible. Roller-skating rinks will be built in all districts.

Traditional Berlin festivals, such as the Stralauer Fish Procession and others will be revived.

In the first few days after the publication of this manifesto, it became obvious that it was not going to remain on paper. In some districts milk und fresh roll deliveries are already functioning, and the range of ready-to-eat foods offered in the food stores has already been increased.

In coming numbers of GERMAN REPORT we shall keep readers informed of the way in which the long-term plans are fulfilled too.

University News

More than one third of the new students of the Martin Luther University in Halle, East Germany, are girls. Exact figures are: 2,772 boys, 1628 girls.

•

The East German government will set up four new medical colleges and admit 1,000 additional medical students to the universities this year.

•

Six hundred worker students studying in their spare time reached matriculation standard this year. Amongst them were a holder of the National Prize, a Labour Hero and over a hundred activists.

WHAT ABOUT "IRON CURTAIN"?

Goebbels Invented It

When western politicians use the well-worn phrase about the "Iron Curtain" they are just parroting one of Goebbel's phrases.

Proof is the photo of the title-page of a nazi newspaper, reproduced here, dated February 12th 1945, three months before the defeat of Hitlerite Germany.

Frankfurter Anzeiger

Hinter eisernem Vorhang

Neutrale Berichte über die Vorgänge in Bulgarien und Rumänien

(translation)

No. 56 *Monday February 12th, 1945* *Price 10 Pfennigs*

Behind the Iron Curtain

Neutral Reports on Events in Bulgaria and Rumania

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

The case of Fritz Jaedicke could well go down in history as a classical example of how news stories are forged and hate propaganda is created.

But I had better begin at the beginning.

On Friday, October 16th, the West German Government representatives in West Berlin called a press conference. Word was passed around amongst the journalists that this was not just a routine conference, but something special.

Really Special

And it was something special indeed. A fifty-two year old man, named Fritz Jaedicke, was introduced as a "victim of East German terror".

Herr Jaedicke himself had a sensational story to tell. He had worked on the buildings in the Stalin Allee, he said, and on June 19th this year, two days after the fascist-inspired riots in East Berlin, he had been arrested by the State Security forces and brutally tortured.

At this point he rolled up his sleeves, and showed horrid scars on both arms. Photographs were distributed showing that his whole body was covered with such scars.

"This was part of the red torture method" Herr Jaedicke said. "They painted my body with acid which ate its way into my skin, and subjected me to intolerable torture.

"Finally, on July 9th, I was able to escape from the torture chamber, and make my way to the sanctuary of West Berlin."

It was just what the gutter journalists of West Berlin wanted. The photo-flash lamps popped and the journalists wrote.

Case for UN?

Next day the West Berlin press turned somersaults of glee, with streamer headlines like "Inhuman Tortures": "My Skin Fried" and so on. One illustrated magazine, the "Illustrierte Berliner Zeitschrift" appeared with a whole page of pictures and the headline "This is a case for the UN".

Foreign correspondents cabled the story all over the world, and papers in many countries were able to regale their readers with another story of "Communist Torture".

Then suddenly the shouting died, and on October 21st several of the West Berlin papers, which had spread the story all over their front pages, reported in a few lines "West Berlin police have arrested Fritz Jaedicke. Investigations are being conducted to see whether the details which he gave correspond with the truth."

What had happened? Quite a lot. Journalists here in East Berlin had checked Herr Jaedicke's statements, and it turned out that everything he had said, except his name and age, had been lies.

He had not worked in the Stalin Allee, but in the Chaussee Strasse, nearly two miles away. He had not been arrested by the police or by anyone else — from June 19th until July 10th he had punched the time-clock every day at his place of work, and had drawn his pay during the same period.

Back to Kaiser Bill

The West German Legal Gazette announced that from October 1st 1953 the preamble to Paragraph 145 of the legal code will be re-worded.

The superseded version read:

"Breaches of the ordinances decreed by the Fuehrer and Reich Chancellor regarding accidents at sea..."

The new (1953) version reads:

"Breaches of the ordinances decreed by the Kaiser regarding accidents at sea..."

And finally Professor H. Redetzky, chief of the Clinic for Skin Diseases in Rummelsburg, East Berlin, testified that Fritz Jaedicke had spent five weeks in the hospital from January 8th to February 14th this year, under treatment for a skin disease which Jaedicke himself stated he had had since 1942.

"As a result of our treatment, the sores healed, leaving scars, and on February 14th he could be discharged" the medical report stated. "The black discolouration of the freshly healed wounds was due to previous treatment with silver nitrate solution".

In this case it was possible to show quite clearly and incontrovertibly that the "victim of the red terror" was a common swindler. Incidentally investigations showed that he had served a sentence in 1951 for stealing scrap metal.

Often, however, the horror and hate stories emanating from West Berlin are not so unmistakeably exposable as thumping lies.

So the next time you read one of these stories — and they occur with monotonous regularity in the columns of the big business press — remember the cas of poor Fritz Jaedicke who was being "painted with acid in the torture chambers" at the same time that he was doing his regular day's work on the building site at 28 Chaussee Strasse.

* * *

Evening Drive

On October 13th, at about 5 p. m., I happened to be driving my little car down East Berlin's Stalin Allee when I noticed an imposing black Humber Limousine ahead of me.

The car, with the British Army number plate 19 BC 04 was showing the two-star plate of a major-general, and a distinguished grey-haired British general and a staff officer were sitting in the back seat.

As the car entered the mile-long stretch of avenue which is flanked with the creamy white facades of the great workers' housing project, the general turned to the staff officer, and I could see he was telling the staff officer something.

The staff officer promptly leaned forward and gave the army driver instructions, and the car slowed to the extremely sedate pace of 15 miles per hour. At that speed the general and his companion passed down the Stalin Allee, craning their necks to study each block of fine new apartments, and catching each other's arms and pointing out particularly well-filled shop windows.

I should like to have known what the general thought, but I doubt whether he will write and tell me, even if he should happen to read this copy of GERMAN REPORT.

But perhaps his driver will.

What About Yours?

Does your local library have GERMAN REPORT in the reading room? We shall be glad to send a complimentary copy to any library which would be willing to take it.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet, Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8, Telephone: 22 62 66. Printed in Germany by (36). Veröffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 694 beim Presseamt des Ministerpräsidenten der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik